GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:464
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2015
Power Turbines
Nayak Shri B.V.

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power turbines are required to be changed so that imported coal can be used in power generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for promoting the import of coal rather than the production of domestic coal for power generation in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER,
COAL AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c) : No, Madam. The power turbines are not affected by change in coal quality. However, the boilers of thermal power plants are normally designed for coal quality of a certain range and require coal within the range for satisfactory performance.

Due to wide variations in quality of domestic coal generally received by Indian power stations, the boilers are designed to use a wide variation in coal quality typically from 3000 to 4000 kcal/kg gross heat value. Thus, the boilers are generally seen to be able to accommodate blend of domestic and imported coal. However, the quantity or percentage of imported coal that can be blended in any station would depend on number of factors like the design coal for the boiler, characteristics of domestic coal being received by the station and characteristics of imported coal proposed for blending. The two coals are also required to be compatible for blending so as to avoid slagging and other operational problems.

Domestic production of coal by Coal India Limited (CIL) has increased by 6.8% in 2014-15 over that of previous year 2013-14 and by 11.4 % from 1st April to 14th July in this Financial year. However, to bridge the shortfall of domestic coal, power producers/utilities import coal.

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